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THE

MAN-PLANT:

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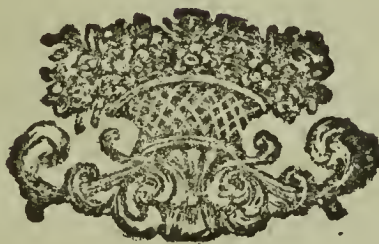
INCREASING and IMPROVING

T H E

BRITISH BREED.

By *VINCENT MILLER*, M. E.

And PROFESSOR of PHILOSOPHY.



L O N D O N :

Printed for M. COOPER, at the *Globe* in
Pater-noster-Row. M D C C L I I .

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THE
MAN-PLANT:
OR
SCHEME
FOR
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MATTER of Surprize it is, that in an Age so illustrated by philosophical Experiments, and Researches, as that in which we have the Happiness to live, no one has yet effectually thought of the Means, of delivering Women from the Embarrassments, and Inconveniencies of Pregnancy, from the Pangs, and Dangers of their Delivery, and the disagreeable, as well as troublesome Consequences, which it too often occasions.

It is true, that the Art of Midwifry has been carried to a high Point of Perfection

amongst us; but it would be yet a greater Point gained, to have no Occasion for it at all.

We are glad to find Women, always in readinefs to make us happy, by raising our Defires, and laying them again at the Expence of their deareft Interests; their Health, their Life, their Beauty; (for all these are at Stake upon those Occasions, so ardently fought for by the Men, and so tenderly complied with by the Women,) and we are ungrateful enough in the Pursuit of our Pleasure, not to trouble our Heads about the After-pains to them.

I own however that their Complaisance and Care to please us are not entirely disinterested. Nature, in its Distribution of the pleasurable Sensation to the two Sexes, has been far from illiberal to the Fair. It is even pretended, that their Allotment is greater than ours.

TIRESIAS, that wonderful Sooth-sayer, who had successively, in his own Person, gone through the Experience of both Genders, and was, in course, qualified to judge scientifically the Appeal to him, on this Matter; after a nice Calculation of the Sums of Pleasure enjoyed by the Male and the Female of the human Species, in their reciprocal

procal Congress, decided, that the actual Pleasure, on the Woman's Side, in Proportion to that of the Man's, was as Nine to Three. If this Calculation is exact, I congratulate the Fair-Sex on its Advantages, and admire the Justice of Nature, in bestowing upon it some Compensation for the Pains and Dangers, to which the Result of those Joys so often subjects them.

But after all, it is even a Gratitude incumbent on us, to seek out the Means of rendering their Condition more equal to ours in Point of Safety and Ease. These Means I have found out: And all Magniloquence of myself apart, I am here prepared to communicate a Discovery of the utmost Importance to the Interests of Mankind, in that capital Point of Propagation of the Species. A Discovery, which in Spite of all my Modesty, I may boldly propose as one, which in the heroic Ages might have procured me Statues, Altars and Temples, and, for which at present, I shall only humbly, and in the modern Spirit, content myself with the same Reward, as stands assigned, by the Wisdom of the *British* Parliament, to the Discovery of the Longitude.

The *Prolegomena*, however, to the Point itself, will not be very long, nor unnecessary. As the last Peace concluded with *France* had never the Grace or Sanction of my Accession to it, I have still looked upon myself as in a State of War with that Nation, as well as invested with sufficient Authority to commit any Acts of Hostility, that may not too much alarm its Dictator here, or give him Grounds for a powerful Remonstrance to our Court. *Grotius* too, himself, seems to have favoured the Interests of my private Animosity, by his profound Silence on the Laws of Peace and War between the Authors of two Nations. Perhaps the Task was too arduous for him, and *non nostrum est tantas componere lites* his Excuse. In the mean Time, I often, in the Spirit of Ambition and Plunder, make not insignificant Descents upon the *French* Coast, and carry on a literary Forage, or now and then cruize, in virtue of my own Letters of Marque upon their Writing-Trade, when, whatever valuable Capture I meet with, I instantly, in my own Court of Conscience, condemn it as good Prize, and to my own Profit. By this Means I procure myself at once the Joy of quartering at Discretion upon the Enemy's Country, of laying
him

him effectually under Contribution, and the Sweets of enriching myself and Nation with the Pillage. But with all the Latitude of Principle natural to a Free-booter, I still retain too much of the old *English* Candour, to desire any Concealment of the *Opima spolia* I gain by these Incurfions : On the contrary, I make my Trophies of them, as may appear, especially in the following Indication of the Source of an inestimable Acquisition.

It is then in a small anonymous Treatise, entitled *The Man-Plant*, and universally attributed to the celebrated Monsieur *D. L. M.* that I met with such a Discussion of the Analogy between the animal and vegetable Kingdoms, as first furnished me with the Hint, which I have since pushed such amazing Lengths. I shall then preliminarily give a succinct Account of this Analogy, in which are supplementally and indistinctly interspersed some Improvements or Alterations, owing to the Elucidation of the ancient Fire-system, retrieved by the modern Discoveries in Electricity.

There is, in our as well as the vegetable Species, principal and capillary Roots. The Stomach, the *Viscera*, with all their vascular

Region form the principal, and the lacteal Veins the capillary ones. The same the use, the same the Functions in both. By these Roots, the Nutrition is conveyed through the whole Extent of the organized Body.

Man is not then a Tree inverted, as some have imagined; whose Root is the Brain, since it takes its Rise from the Abdominal Vessels, which are the first sensibly formed to the Eye, at least before the Integuments which cover them, and invest Man with his Bark or Rind. In the Seed of the Plant, one of the first Things perceived is its little Root; then the Stalk: The one descends, the other aspires.

Our Lungs do the Office of Leaves. If the Leaves again, which are the Lungs of Plants, have Branches, it is to multiply their Surfaces, and in Consequence extend their Capacity of imbibing the ambient Fluid; whether Air, or the empyreal Fluid, which is perhaps the Essence of Air; or solves at least more Difficulties than the usual Way of accounting for them by a Jumble of Air, and Æther. As for the human Body there is no Need of Leaves or Branches, the Quantity of our *Viscera*, and pulmonary Vesicles, being
so

so duly proportioned to the human Mass, and its stated Circumference.

*RUYSCH**, and † *Boerhaave* have acknowledged the Resemblance of Man in many Points of Vegetation, Circulation, Generation and Organization, to what has been observed in Plants, by those *Harveys* of Botany, *Malpighius* ‡, *Van Royen* ||, and *Lewenhoeck* §. The Principle of Life is in both the same; viz. the Solar Heat, that true *Spiritus Rector Mundi*, which in Animals fabricates and mills those Streams of Blood rubefied by its energetic Activity, and in Plants forms and promotes equally the Circulation of their Sap. Have they not too their Perspiration as well as we*? It is then this Principle of Fire universally disseminated, and with which all the Globe is impregnated, and constantly fed from the Solar Fountain, that exists the *Vis Vitæ* of all Matter †, and in Man especially

* Thef. Anat. † Inst. Med. ‡ Anal. Plant.

|| Thesis. & Poem. de Matrimonio Plantarum.

§ Arcan. Nat. * Hales's Stat. of Veget.

† What can be better substituted to the Hypothesis of the *Spiritus Rector*, supposed by certain Naturalists, indued with its Powers, à *mobili penetrabilitate, subtilitate exquisitissima, volatilitate efficacissima*, than the principle of Fire, that Element so evidently *sui generis*, and according to *Zoroaster*, and Truth, the *premier minister* of God, through all his Works?

cially, through its Concourse with Matter adapted and disposed under the various Forms of the Solids and Fluids to work and model it into Sentiment and Sensation. It is this Chemistry of Fire, that radiates like its kindred Lightning, through the human Compages, is the Author of all Motion mental and corporeal, and executes all the Offices imputed to the nervous Liquid : So that all animal as well as vegetable Species are truly Fire Engines; the Mechanism of which is only more or less complicated according to their respective primigenial Archetypes, established, *ab origine*, by the great Author of all Nature. *Boerhaave* himself went no further than suspecting Fire to be a Spirit, * in his admirable Treatise upon that Element; but the Discoveries since made by Electricity have clearly proved it. What would Matter in short be without its Portion of Fire to animate and expand it, but an inert Mass intimately cohering and congealed? As Water, for Example, becomes instantly a glaucious Concrete, when robbed of that Portion of Fire, which is the Principle of its Fluidity; Fire I say, to which Water itself is so useful

a Ve-

* Ignis a multis, pro spiritu verius quam pro corpore agnitus.

a Vehicle, and Corrector, in the Distribution of it through, especially the animal and vegetable Kingdoms, the Analogy betwixt which, is strikingly illustrated in the following Formulary, in which the Female of the human Species is described, as a Flower Plant, in the Method of *Linæus*.

The Description is in *Latin*, both in respect to the technical Terms sounding better in that Language, and to the great Modesty of our own; to which even the Plea of Philosophy will not excuse the necessary Plainness of Expression in certain delicate Matters.

Botanical Description of the **MAN-PLANT.**

Class.	Diciæ.	
Ord.	Monandria.	Monogynia.
Gen.	Homo.	

Mas.

Fœmina.

FOEMINA.

CALIX*. Perianthium imbricatum, Campaniforme,

* Vestis præsertim inferior.

niforme, multis Cyrrhis linteis, & Ornamentis Decorum : Dediduum omni Nocte.

COROL†. Petala quatuor, superiora duo, & inferiora, longa, rotunda, tribus Articulis divisa, ultimo quinquefido.

NECTARIUM‡ duplex, rotundo-globosum, tenerum, niveum, Tactu suavissimum, aliquando Fuscum, nauseosum, mole, colore flacciditate horridum ; cylindrulo papilliformi lacteo areola pulchre rubescente cincto, in medio sui gaudens, ad basin utriusque petali superioris positum.

PISTILLUS||. Germen Pyriforme.

Stylus unicus§, concavus, interne rugosus, Membranaceus ad quatuor sex, & amplius pollicum latitudinem, longus, & affatim ductilis.

Stygma oblongum¶, in medio fissum, interne sub-rubellum, externe molle, tenerum, lanugine crispa circumdatum, odorem Hyperici fragrantem exhalans.

PERICARPIUM*. Capsula ovalis unilocularis.

SEMEN.

† Brachia Femora, &c. ‡ Mammæ. || Uterus.

§ Vagina. ¶ Os Vulv. &c. * Seminis involucrium.

SENUM. Unicum, sæpe duplex, raro triplex.

Obs. Essentia constitit in † Nectario, & Pistillo ‡.

Not. Variant Species, prout differt locus natalis §

I own however that this glaring resemblance between the animal and vegetable kingdom, affected me at first but slightly and insignificantly. My ideas upon it struck no deep root, and sprung up like those chemical efflorescences, which have only a short Duration, a Shew of Form, and no Substance. They took then no sort of Consistence or Solidity till Chance threw it in my Way to extend and give them a Body, from the Communication of a Pamphlet wrote with much Fire and Spirit, by one of the greatest Naturalists of the Age, tending to establish the Possibility of hatching Men by an artificial Heat, upon a Hint caught from Mons. *Reaumar*.

I perused this Piece with the utmost, I may say, Voraciousness. It struck a new Light out to me : It was however with great
Pain

† Mammæ.
nus Physique.

‡ Partes Gen. Fœminei.
Dissertation sur les Noirs.

§ Vid. Ve-

Pain I observed that an Experiment of such immense Utility should be so lightly dropped, or at least, not pushed into the practical Perfection, of which I began to see Glimpses of the Possibility, and to which it was easy to pronounce the learned Author so essentially capable of conducting it. Finding then, that this Undertaking was like many others, given up either through Disgust at the Difficulties or Imperfections usually incident to their Outset, or possibly through the original Author of it, not thinking the World worth his further Pains in it ; I determined to take at once the Advantage of his Advances, his Miscarriages, and his Desistence. I formed then the grand Plan of the Ingraftment of the human Species, considered as partaking of the vegetable Species, upon his Scheme of maturing the *Man-fœtus* by artificial Heat. For want of which Combination, and sufficient Allowance being made for the predominant Terrestreity of the human Texture, I humbly conceive, the Project failed, or was, it seems, never effectually executed, before I undertook it upon more digested Principles. But above all, I depended on the powerful Patronage and Encouragement of the
 fair

fair sex, for the following, amongst many other obvious Reasons.

Since, thought I, a false Delicacy, a Mixture of Indolence, Laziness, Vanity, and especially Ignorance, has for a long Time established it as a Custom for Women to renounce their Duty of nourishing the Fruit of their Womb; since, except a few, whom extrem Indigence still obliges personally to discharge that homely and antiquated Function, they are all grown such very fine Ladies, as to disdain the Drudgery of suckling their own Children, and exist scarcely more than titular, or at best, but Half-mothers: Since, against the Intention of Nature, that Breast, which it has taken such a Pride, in forming and fashioning with such exquisite Workmanship, to be the Instrument of Nutrition, is no longer to be of any Use to them, but for Ornament, or Dalliance.

Here, said I, we already have a Disposition, which should have led them farther; or at least have engaged the Philosophy of their Times, in the Researches of a more thorough Gratification of their Humour. What! shall not the Men dutifully study how a Sacrifice shall be compleated, which is already so far begun? Since the Women can suffer a Child formed,

formed, and long nourished with their Substance, to be at the instant of its Birth * taken from them and forced by their refusing it their Breast, to depend for the Sustainance of its tender little Life, on the Substance of a Stranger; since they divert, or dry up the Streams of that Juice, which is solely prepared for that Child, and thus defraud it of its most natural Aliment; since, for this, they voluntarily incur a Number of Risks to their own Health, from the Extraviation, or Coagulation of their Milk, whence grumous Deposites, schirrous, ulcerous, or cancerous Disorders often ensue; what have they more to do, towards obtaining near the same Disengagement from the Consequences of Child-bearing, as that of which the Men are in Possession, but to advance a Step further, *to wit*, the abridging the Task of bearing a Child the whole Time, and the getting rid of it, before their Pains in the Hour of Delivery, by the common Course of Nature, shall exact from them, with too grievous an

Usury,

* ————— Puer, ut scœvis projectus ab undis
 Navita, nudus humi jacet, infans, indigus omni
 Vitæ auxilio, cum primum in luminis oras
 Nixibus, ex alvo matris natura profudit:
 Vagituque locum lugubri complet, at æquum est
 Cui tantumꝑ in vita, restet transire malorum!

Lucret.

Usury, the Repayment of the Pleasure, which they enjoyed in the Instants of its Conception?

The human Female may be indifferently classed among the *Viviparous*, or *Oviparous* Creatures, since she effectually partakes of both; *Viviparous*, because her Fruit comes out of the Womb ready-formed; *Oviparous* in that like the Females of other Animals, she is furnished for Fecundation with an Ovary, and Eggs, a Discovery made by modern Naturalists †, and which constitutes the Basis of my Improvements. These Eggs are well known to be no other than the Conceptacles, or temporary Capsules of the Male-feed, which is itself the Integument, or Wrapper of a Spark or Particle of Fire, essentially quickened with the vivifying electric Touch produced by the Friction of the generative Process, and radiated up the Womb, where that individual Animacule fostered by a Heat

† It should seem that the Antients were not intirely unacquainted with this Oviparous Disposition of Nature, but that in Tenderdes to human Pride, or in the Fear of its Incredulity they did not care to transmit it to us, but like many other physical Truths, under the Shades of Mythology. The Eggs of *Leda* which produced *Castor*, *Pollux*, &c. seem mystical Allegories, which escaped the Simplification of the *Greek* Historians, or remained undisturbed by them in their literal Sense, from their Taste for the Marvellous.

B- congenial

congenial to its igneous Essence, grows and develops into the human Form, through the constant Activity of its Fire-spirit, struggling in vain to get loose from its Entanglement in the ambient, and tenacious corporeal Matter, or fluid Principles of future Solids. There the subtile, restless, *captive Fire*, caught, as it were, in a Trap, becomes an internal solar Principle, which by the Power of Rarefaction inherent to it, spreading through, and pervading every Mignature-tubule, Canal, and Ramification, enlarges round it the whole Plan of Architecture of its now Prison for Life, and opens Way for the affluent Particles of Increment: Thus simply, mechanically, and conformably to that primordial Modification, or distinctive Organization, which characterises and resolves the Species itself into *Matter of Form* † it proceeds gradually

† This System is so far from attacking the Immortality of the Soul, that (the Proof by Revelation excepted) nothing tends more strongly to establish it. The immortal Spark of Fire is here supposed to be sown in its temporary Matrix-form, in which by Virtue of a constant Coction, during its Term of Complication with Matter, this Fire-spirit grows with the material Body, and contracts an Individuality which specifically constitutes that Entity called the Soul; and of which at the Dissolution of this Matrix, or in other Words, at the Time of Death, the Cast work gets disintricated from its Foundery, and receives its Out birth into Immortality and
all

dually expanding the Rudiments or Types of these Minims of the human Existence.

By the Rule of rational Analogy then, and on the Principles of the Fire-philosophy, I conceived the Possibility of such a Process of Digestion, with artificial Heat, taking Place

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on

all its Consequences, probably, in its Evolution, carrying with it according to the exact Measure of divine Justice, virtually and intrinsically its due Proportion of Beatitude or Torment, either as a bland, temperate celestial Fire, or a raging, self-corrosive, devouring one, hungrily after Terrestriety. Where then is the Absurdity of believing, that the Coalition and Synergy of two immortal Principles, *Fire* and *Matter*, may compact and fabricate between the active Impression of the one, and the passive Mechanism of the other, a *tertium quid*; an imperishable, and indissipable Essence, susceptible of a new Mode of Existence upon the Destruction or breaking up of the Mould? And if the Mode of our future Existence is not known, is that of our present one much more so? If it shall be objected, that from this Principle of Generation common to us with the Beasts, and even Vegetables, the Immortality of all animal Souls is also inferred: It is answered, that the Parity in one and more Points is far from implying it in *all*, especially where there are already such evident Distinctions to oppose it, and form many as superior Reasons to presume further and infinite ones, rather submissively, however than peremptorily. He that asks, Why a Dog has not a Soul as Immortal as a Man; may as well ask, Why a Man has not Wings as well as a Bird? To the first Question, it is answer'd, Highly probably: as to the last, positively *Dis aliter visum*. It was the Pleasure of the plastic Author of all Beings, to honour the Head of the animal Scale with such an high distinctive Exception. Perhaps too, and not inconsistent with divine Goodness and Power, not the meanest of our Brother-worms has received Life in vain.

on the human Eggs, as on those of the feathered Tribes, or as in forcing the Growth of exotic Plants. The Points to be settled then were, not only how to bring the Woman to lay or extrude this Egg, but to ascertain both the precise Time of her being electrified by the Congress of the Male, and thence fecundated by her Intus-susception of the seminal Animalcule, as well as the Interval therefrom, to that exact Point of Vegetation or Pre-coction at which the Egg might be brought away, without risking the Destruction of the embryonated Individual, in the Detachment of it from its Inhesion within the dark Holds and Fastnesses of the Womb. These were all Difficulties to be previously got over; and here Nature came in to my Assistance. My Observations were then usefully employed in watching, and pursuing her Progress through all her Mysteries of Generation, and Formation. Hecatombs of various Kinds fell the Victims of my philosophical Researches. My Experiments cost specially the Lives of a Number of Hens, Ducks, &c. in spite of the Remonstrance of my Wife, an excellent Oeconomist, against the Havoc made of her Poultry. But King I was in my own House, and that none of your beggar-spirited
 Ones

Ones §. I also collaterally made my Use of some Materials ready-cut-and-dry, and furnished me by some of those indefatigable minute Experimentalists, who, having no End of their own, in the Pains they take, may with great Propriety be called the Hod-men of Physics, as they serve well enough to fetch and carry the Morter and Bricks, with which true Philosophers are enabled to put together, and erect their Buildings.

At length however, and after a long Series of the most exact Investigations, I arrived at fixing the critical Instant for proceeding to the Extraction of the Egg, or Human-fœtus, in order to its Transplantation. But here I was for some time in default. I had rather too implicitly relied on the Virtue of the celebrated Eagle Stone. For whether I was imposed on by spurious Counterfeits, or whether the Planetary Influence is spent, to which it doubtless

B 3

owed

§ The following is the Testimony of a Foreigner. “ The
 “ unfortunate *Charles I.* King of *England*, a curious Na-
 “ turalist, and a *Lover of the Sciences*, ordered, in Favour of
 “ his Anatomist, employed in the Discovery of the Mystery
 “ of Generation, that all the Does and Hinds in his Parks
 “ should be at his Mercy, and *Harvey* accordingly made a
 “ studious Massacre among them.” A King’s Taste for Arts
 and Sciences is doubtless a great Advantage to them, but
 is it not yet a greater Honour to himself? Or can a Minister
 Plead any Excuse for not instilling it into him, but his not
 having it himself?

owed its singular Properties; two or three Experiments, turning out Blank, shewed me what I had not to depend on, in Respect to its presumed Efficacy. But this Baulk was soon repaired. I consulted then *Bhoni* de *Abortu salubri*; and combining with all my own Knowledge and Experience in Physic, I luckily fell upon the following *Succedaneum*, than which in many Cases besides there is not a safer, nor a more efficacious Remedy in the whole *Materia Medica*.

MISTURA MIRABILIS.

℞ *Sacchar. alb. depurat.* ʒ iii.

Succ. Limon. Succ. Aurant. ana ʒ vi.

Affund. Aq. bullient. lb. i fs.

Colatur. add. Aq. Vit. Opt. lb. fs.

Limat. Nuc. Macifs. q. f.

M. F. Haust. sat. Calid. sumend. pro re nata.

This Potion is even not unpalatable, and generally throws the Patient into a gentle *Diaphoresis*.

I had already caused to be erected a Fabric to which I had a Door of Communication from my Study in the Nature of a Hot-house, or Conservatory, furnished with the Substructure of a curious Hypocaust, by the Means of which, and according to the Regulation of an excellent Thermometer, I could manage so as to maintain a solemn, just, equable Temperature

rature of the genial Heat required for the *Fœtus*, or Process of Concoction of the Man-vegetable, in its State of Germination.

I had disposed for my Seed-beds, upon a kind of Binns, ranged horizontally the length of this Hot-house, a Number of Wicker-baskets, so chosen for their Flexility, and full of fine Earthern Mould, in which the Man-fœtus was to be sown, enclosed in an Artificial Secundine, that should guard the soft Mucilage, against the rough Particles of the ambient Earth-matrix, or Digester. The Apparatus of this Secundine was neither costly nor operose. I followed in it the admirable Simplicity of Nature in its most capital Operations. I imagined then a sort of *Sacculus* or *Pouch* as a Succedaneum of a Shell or Tunic, so necessary, not only as a Defensive of the tender Grain, but for the Concentration of the Genial Heat, and for the containing a competent Provision of Nourishment for the Fœtus, during its Term of Projection. For these Purposes I took a Bladder, suppled by a due Maceration in Oil, and rendered as expansile as should be needful, with an Aperture large enough to admit the Embryo, and its Victualment.

This primordial Nutrition was however the Point I chiefly stuck at. I own the Choice

of it considerably embarrassed me. Where, said I, shall I find an Aliment homogenous to that with which the human Fœtus is nourished, during its Sojournment in its first Matrix of animal Earth? Here again Chemistry stepped in to my Relief. I made and nicely filtrated Extracts of Aliments, light, delicate, but wonderfully nutritious, always preferring those which I judged most enriched with Organical *Moleculæ*. Proceeding then to the highest Clarification of these Extracts, I obtained at length a sort of Chyle, or lacteal Liquid, sufficiently analogous to that with which the Fœtus is subsisted whilst enveloped with its natural Tunic or Secundine.

This nutritious Juice was to fill up the void Spaces of the gravid Bladder, so that as soon as the Human Fœtus, should on its advancing in its Formation burst the thin cortical Pellicule of the Egg, it was to swim in this circumfluous Liquid, till gaining in due Time, a Growth sufficient to swell the Bladder, of which it will have consumed the enclosed Provision, it should arrive at its due Degree of Maturity; when the Delivery could easily be executed by Means of the Cesarean Operation on the Quasi-Matrix Bladder.

As for the Baskets of Earth themselves, my Plan was to keep them duly watered, to co-

ver each with a Bell-Glass, both for a Defence against any sudden Distemperature of the ambient empyreal Fluid, and also occasionally to receive the Benefit of its Exposition to the Southern Sun, of which it would collect the vivifying Rays, and transmit its peculiar Heat to the germinating Vegetable, over which too there was a thin *Stratum* of Cotton; for the judicious Choice of which Material, I cannot but confess my Obligation to my Predecessor in this Experiment, as it is certainly preferable to the stercorarious Digestives used for the Hatching of Chickens, both in regard to the extreme Delicacy of the Human Embryos, and to their superior Dignity. I propose however in the Course of this *Encheiresis*, to employ Down, Atherdown, Silk-cotton, Porcelain-earth, and Rosewater for Eggs of high Degree, and laid by Ladies, Duchesses, Princesses, or Money-jobbers Wives.

I was now to proceed to Experiments. My Wife, good Woman, had been long past the Season of Fecundation; so that I was obliged, as they say, to go farther a Field.

I pitched then upon my Gardener's Daughter, for an Essay of this infinite Importance. Her name was *Sally*. And I could not have found a properer Subject. She was very pretty, healthy, ruddy-complexioned, and
between

between eighteen and nineteen Years old. I examin'd her attentively for some Days, and, I saw distinctly, by her Eyes, her Looks, and occasional Flushes, that she was in that critical Season, when the Integrity of a Girl hangs upon a single Hair, and her Virgin-flower sits so loose, that it drops with the least Shake, or warm Breath, as one sees a Peach-blossom blown away with the lightest Puff of a Western Breeze. There happened then to be a Wedding in our Neighbourhood, to which I knew this Girl was invited; and which I honoured with my Presence, purely that I might not lose Sight of this future Subject of my Experiment. The Country-dances went briskly forward, and produced their usual predisposing Ferment of the Blood. I remarked that *Sally* was provided with a Partner, a Sweet-heart of hers: This was a young Country Lad, Son of a neighbouring Farmer, of a promising Person, clean grown, fresh coloured, and flush of Health and Vigour. After dancing together till they were tired and enflamed, I observed them get into a snug Corner, and following them with my Eyes, I saw the young Fellow courting her, with such an Expression of Passion, as shewed he was as urgent, and as dangerous as I could have wished him for

my

my Purpose ; he kept for some Time her Hands locked up in his, and spoke so softly to her, that I could not overhear what he said. She seemed in a strange taking. Her Agitation was visible. Stifled Sighs, amorous Breathings, interrupted or altered the Tone of her Voice. Her Cheeks were flushed with the Picturesque Glow of Modesty, fainting with its Wounds, and breathing its last under the Violence of its sweet Enemy. Her Eyes appeared languishing, and suffused with an Humidity, through which all the Fires of Desire sparkled, and made them glisten like a watery Sun. The Rise and Fall of her Breast were more quick and laborious ; every thing, in short, on both Sides, seemed to threaten imminent Extremities : Concluding then from all Symptoms, that the Girl's Hour was come, and that she was fairly on the edge of being qualified for the Experiment I had fore-laid, and which was to depend upon her True Love's laying the Foundation of a future *Fœtus*, I judged sagaciously, that my Absence would spoil nothing, and withdrew, well satisfied with leaving them to Nature and themselves.

I was not mistaken. The next Day after Dinner, as I was walking in my Garden, I saw her pass by me, her Eyes now appeared

peared heavy, and turbid; her Colour rather paler than ordinary; her Breast more elevated; with a Sort of indolent listless Saunter in her Gait. By all which I could discern, that there had passed a manifest Change in her Condition. I called her to me; she seemed ashamed and confused, in a way that was not usual to her. “ So, Mistress, said I, “ (patting my Nose with my Finger, and “ staring her wistfully in the Face,) how “ did you fare at the Wedding?” At the Word *Mistress*, emphatically pronounced, in Place of *Sally*, as I commonly called her, joined to an Air of Archness in my Looks, she blushed; I took her by the Hand; when seeing she was trembling, and ready to drop down with Confusion, I softened my Tone, “ What, said I, do you imagine that I do “ not know all that passed Yesterday be- “ tween you and your Sweet-heart! look “ you, Child, I am, by my Art, acquaint- “ ed with the whole of your Transactions: “ I could tell them you as plain as if I had “ been by, and seen them: In vain then, “ would you pretend to deny any Thing: “ Take my Word for it; confess the Truth, “ fairly: I have a regard for you, and will “ make every Thing easy to you: you shall “ find in me a Friend that will do you all the “ Good

“ Good in his Power.” A Flood of Tears was all her Answer ; convinced then by the implicit Assent of her Silence, and by the Disorder of her Surprize, I chucked her under the Chin, comforted her, and assured her that if she would be a good Girl, have a thorough Confidence in me, and obey my Directions, it should be the better for her.

I prescribed her then a proper Regimen, of light, digestible, and *analeptic* Food, and ordered her to come and see me every Morning, that I might verify certain physical Diagnostics of her Impregnation, and that she should not see her Sweet-heart again for twelve or fifteen Days. All these Injunctions, her Fears and Hopes engaged her to observe scrupulously, even to the Abstinence of Interviews with her Gallant ; of which however I had but little depended on having Authority enough to interrupt the Course. At the End then of nine-and-thirty Days, after having previously well taken my Measures, and certified the Maturity of her Condition, I managed so in the House, as to procure an Occasion of Privacy enough to carry my Experiment into Execution. I had prepared for the Operation by a proper Encouragement, and led her into the Conservatory. There I placed her a Straddle on a *Bidet* or Machine, such as the

French

French Ladies use when they perform their Ablutions. There the Situation of her Body being vertical to the Cavity of my Hand, well and duly warmed for this Function, she had not been six Minutes, and eighteen Seconds in this Posture, when, without any Pain, she cried out, “ That she felt plainly something slipping from her, but what it was she could not tell.” Nothing could be truer ; for I, on that Instant, received it in my Hand ; upon the withdrawing of which I had the Pleasure of seeing distinctly a human Egg, in which, with the Help of a magnifying Glass, I could easily discern a vermicular Motion, and the rubid Speck, or *Punctum Saliens* ; which satisfied me, that I had got a well conditioned *Embryo*, endued with the necessary Principles of Vitality. I immediately then put it gently into the prepared Bladder, of which I closed up and sealed the Opening, with a proper Mark and Label, affixed to it, after an Affusion of the Chimico-lacteal Liquid, destinated to the Sustainance of the Fœtus, thus committed to my Charge from the Date of its Expulsion ; and which, I instantly planted in a Basket of Earth, in Readiness for that Purpose.

I shall not here weary my Reader with the infinite Detail of all the Cares and Vigils I was obliged to employ in the Cultivation of
 this

this precious Vegetable, though probably the History of them might be at least as instructive and interesting as some Journals of bodily Occurrences to sick Butterflies, kept by those important Literati, who pass their Lives in the Observation of all the *Mimutiae* of Insects, in measuring the Skips of a Flea, in counting the Feathers of the Tail of a Humming-bird, or brooding over the like miserable Wind-eggs of Philosophy, with the pompous Accounts of which they rather overload the Reader's Memory, than much enlighten his Understanding.

About the middle then of the eighth Month, reckoning from the Hour in which this philosophical Infant had been transplanted from its natural to its artificial Cell, one Day that I was visiting my Nursery as usual, I observed the Basket shook with an intestine Commotion, that made a sort of small Earthquake, and gave me a happy Prefage of its imminent Maturity, for my gathering the Fruit of all my Pains. I waited however till the next Day, that I might not risk a premature Delivery, when on removing the Glass, and examining the Bladder, I found it much distended, turgid and agitated, as if the Contents threatned to burst their Prison, upon which, by a cautious Incision, I gave the inclosed *Fœtus* its Release
from

from Confinement. I had then all my most sanguine Wishes answered, in discovering a fine full-formed Man-plant, a Male-infant, and vivacious, for it began to cry and sprawl the Instant of its Disclosure.

I had provided a Nurse to rear it, who entered upon her Office directly: And this Child, who is now twenty Months old, can go alone, and has so fresh, healthy, chubby a Look, that there is no Mother but would be proud of such an One for hers. Nor ought I to omit, that he cut his Teeth with the utmost Ease. For my Part, I consider him in some Measure, as my own Work, and as I have no Children of my own, I propose to breed him up, adopt, and leave my Fortune to him.

This Phœnomenon, or Prodigy of Art, so fit to give the highest Idea of practical Philosophy, could not escape making a great Noise; for all I had depended a good deal on the Discretion of a Mother, interested for her own Sake, in its being kept a Secret. But she, it seems, had a trusty Confidant, that special Confidant had had hers, and so on *ad infinitum*. Thus, from Confidence to Confidence, and always, to be sure, under the Condition of the profoundest Secrecy, violated however in the very Act of Exaction of it from others,

thers, whom the Example absolved from keeping it more scrupulously than it was kept from them, this Adventure circulated, and became in a few Days the general Whisper of the Neighbourhood.

From that Time, I have been, as I expected, pestered with Visits, and beset with an infinite Number of nominal Maids, Wives of Absentees, and wise Widows personally offering me their Service towards multiplying my Experiments. But however compassionate to the Wants, or willing I may be to cover the Disgraces of the fair Sex, I determined to abide by this one Proof of the Efficacy of my Process, till I shall have obtained either the Reward for which I propose to sue to Parliament, or at least the Royal Patent for an exclusive Privilege of erecting my Laboratory into a Man-work or Seminary, for the supplemental Production of valuable Subjects, of which, by the Way, the Nation shows already so sensibly depauperated and thinned, like a Nursery of Plants when the Grub is got amongst them, that even in our Times, one may expect to see a *true-born Englishman* as great a Raree-show as the *Chien Scavant*, a Man-tyger, a Calf with six Legs, or any other Monster exhibited at the Fairs.

The Utility then of this Establishment is

so obvious, that I need not apprehend the least Hesitation will be made at granting me all the Encouragement I could wish. I might even hold myself abundantly dispensed by stating here some of its multifarious Advantages, were it not necessary to impose Silence on the Clamours of the Envious. For such one must lay one's Account with raising, as it would be wonderful indeed, that so extraordinary and meritorious a Discovery should not provoke Opposition, especially from those Enemies to the Public Good, from a Spirit of Selfishness, which renders every Proposal obnoxious to them that wants the Recommendation of its coming from themselves.

It is then easy to be conceived, That by ridding the Women of the Plagues and Fatigue of Gestation, and of bringing to Perfection those Rudiments of human Entity committed to their Womb, they may teem anew at much shorter Intervals of Time. They may then become like those fertile Fields that yield two or three Crops in a Season, and their Fecundity will be only limited by such small Reposes, as the Necessity of lying fallow will require for the Reparation of the Ground. They will continue longer able and apt for Impregnation ; so that upon a moderate Estimate, a well disposed, well constituted,

constituted, and industrious Woman, may furnish her Country, for her Contingent, with one hundred and thirty, to one hundred and forty or more Children. *Vive the Utile-dulci!* It is your only motive to practical Patriotism, from which, the very Sound of that exploded Word itself, would not make it a high Joke to bespeak any Grace or Support to my Proposal.

By this Means, we shall see infinite Broods of Subjects thus pullulating, serve to repeople and enrich, as well our Island as those vast Tracts in *North-America*, which are so thinly inhabited, and which are now obliged to be stocked with *Palatines*, or other foreign Refugees. A Naturalization-Bill will then be out of the Question. We may also then more reasonably grasp the Conquest of both the *Indies*, especially when we shall have compleated the Discovery of the North-west Passage. Our actual Possessions, and those of which we shall infallibly by Dint of superior Numbers, procure the Acquisition, will be abundantly supplied with Swarms of our own subjects, and become as populous as *China* itself.

By this Method too I establish a sort of physical Equality between the two Sexes, as

some Amends for Want of a moral one. The Women delivered from the dreadful Apprehensions of the Pangs of their Labour, of which the Men are the Causes, without the least Share of the Burden falling upon them, will drink the Draught of Pleasure as pure as we do. We shall have no longer to encounter with their Opposition or Repugnance founded on the Fears of the Consequences. The Birth of a Child dear to its Family need not then, as it too often does, in the present State of Things, endanger or cost the Life of a Mother yet dearer to it.

No more Inconveniences of Pregnancy, so often Matter of Disgust to the Husbands, and of Impatience to the Wives; no more Loss of precious Time, since, it is plain, they may easily be delivered, whilst one is holding a Hand of Cards for them. No more of those violent Strains, or Over-dilatation of the Diameter of Venus's Sphere. No need of all the Trouble of Life-warm Lambskin-swathing, to smooth the Corrugations of the *Abdomen* or *Hypogastrium*. We shall always have them fresh, healthy, and in Plight for Use; and the Charms of their Persons, in which the Interest of our Pleasure is so deeply concerned, will be less liable to Impairs, and more durable.

Besides

Besides that, to judge by the Health, the Hardiness and happy Conformation of the Child brought forth by my Experiment, even this new Earth-born, Cucumber, Chicken Progeny, will be far less imperfect than the fribbling Race that now totters about Town, with all the Marks of *Mala Stamina vitæ* upon it, Hospital-complexions, flimsy Muscles, Enervity of Body, and wretched Spirits; and far more serviceable than unactive Masses of Corpulence buried alive in their own Fat. But though there are no great Hopes from the present Run of Invalids, I may safely aver, from the Improvements I have in View (the Deduction of which, I reserve for my Petition to the Parliament) that we shall see reproduced by this Method of Propagation, and once more come into Play, all that Strength of Sinew which strung the Arms of those Progenitors of ours, who antiently made such a Figure at the Battles of *Crecy* and *Agincourt*, or of those who more lately drove whole Squadrons of their Enemies into the *Danube*, whom they had put between the two Fates of Fire, and Water. Barbarous, rude, rough Work! and quite unfit for the dainty Hands of our present pretty Men; Hands blanched with Almond-paste, brillianted with Diamonds,

monds, and be-delicated with *Dresden* Ruffles.

Neither will this Project of mending the Breed appear either absurd or chimerical to those who shall reflect, that Plantations of Men are susceptible of Improvement as well as those of Trees. Has not an Author of universal Literature expressly advanced, that the tall Forest of fine Men, with which *Prussia* sees itself covered, is owing to the careful Cultivation and Attention of the late King, to the furnishing his Country with able Bodies for the Defence of it, as the Polish and Elevation of their Minds are to the noble Taste of the present one? Upon which, *Mons. D. L. M.* observes that his truly royal Spirit has even as creative Influence. “ A Spirit, says he, which is the
 “ Foster-father of Genius. It is the Goad
 “ of it; it can alone prune, trim, and
 “ shape it, as one may say, into happy Fi-
 “ gures, like the Trees in the Gardens of
 “ *Marly*. And what is more valuable yet,
 “ it can from barren, fertilize and render it
 “ productive of the richest Fruits. Is it
 “ surprizing then, that Arts and Sciences
 “ now look on *Prussia* as their native Coun-
 “ try? Had not true Genius a Right to ex-
 “ pect those flattering Advantages and Di-
 “ stinctions

“ distinctions which it actually enjoys under
 “ a Prince so eminently one himself, and
 “ whose least of Merit is his Crown ?”

I foresee indeed an Objection that will probably be made. What, says one, will become of the Midwives, and the Practitioners in that nice Province of Physic, from whom your Laboratories will take their Business? I am not unprepared for an Answer. When the Inoculation of the small Pox was introduced amongst us, what Exclamations were not made against this strange Invention? But what became of them? Why, those that made them, were free to make them as loud and as long as they pleased. Those who were deterred by a ridiculous Prejudice, from adopting a safe, but till then an unheard of Practice, were extremely at their own Liberty, to suffer their Children to run the Risks of having that Distemper, in its natural Way; whilst those who chose they should be inoculated, had the same Liberty to take this Method of Prevention: So, I presume, there will be no Act of Parliament to force the Women who prefer the old System, to embrace mine, or to hinder them from employing Midwives of either Sex, if they have a mind to it. And when their Ministry comes to be entirely exploded, I

will ensure them present Pay, in quality of dry Nurses, or *Supravisors* of the Laboratories which will doubtless be erected all over the Kingdom, in Virtue of a Patent to myself, or, if requisite, of a Charter to a new Company or Society *de propagando*.

As to those who will seek to extenuate the Value of my Labours, by accusing me of Plagiarism, or of putting my Sickle into other People's Harvest, and cry, Phoo! This is nothing more than *Reameaur's Ovens* new heated; a manifest Pillage, at Second-hand too! I can only say, that I have already candidly confessed my Obligations to my Predecessors in this Career, and that I pretend to no more Merit, than to what my Superstructure on their Foundations may afford me a Claim. Was not the great *Boerhaave* himself less an Author than a Compiler? Or will the Person happy enough to perfect the Quadrature of the Circle have the less Title to the Glory, or Emolument of it, for his availing himself of the Calculations of Hundreds who may have preceded him in the Attempts of it?

It was also with great Edification, that I observed certain old Stories paid due Respect to upon this Occasion. As I own I incline to the Opinion of those who discern in the
 “ obscurest

obscurest Antiquity * Traces of all the modern Discoveries, it is noble, it is just, to confess the having borrowed great Enlightenings from those Facts hitherto believed fabulous, but which Experience has made me consider with a more philosophical Eye. Accustomed then, as I am to deep Reflections, to reject nothing superciliously, which has the least Glimpse of Probability on its Side, and to believe nothing without a due Examination, I meditated profoundly on the Nature of the Births of *Bacchus*, *Erichthonius*, and *Orion*, so apposite to, and corroborative of the present Proposal. After discussing them then, with all that metaphysical Suspension of Assent so capital to a Philosopher; after sifting carefully the Marvellous, and the Probable of them, I became confirmed in my Opinion, that with regard to these Facts; as well as to many others, our
 Incredulity

* See Philosoph. Novantiq; or the antient Origin of Modern Physics, by the Father *Regnault*, *Ex. Gr.* May not the Principle of the Vegetation inherent to essentially cold Matter, under its coy, elusive Struggle with Fire, be figured by *Daphne*, expanded by *Apollo* or *Sol* *? Is not also *Prometheus* punished for his Theft of that peculiar Fire, that Spark of Autocracy with which he kindled Life into the material human Mass, a fine Allegory, that shows at once the celestial Origin of the Soul, and the divine Wrath on its Prescience of the ill Use would be made of its Immersion in Terrestréity?

* *In frondem Crines, in ramos brachia crescunt.* Ovid.

Incredulity proceeds partly from the little Exactness of those who have transmitted them crudely to us, without explaining the Manner in which they happened, and partly from our Insufficiency in not imagining, or our Ignorance, in not discovering what is requisite to supplement, or help out the Tradition.

For Instance, what says the Fable, or rather History of the Birth of *Bacchus*? That his Mother perishing in her Folly, through her Ambition of a Visit from *Jupiter* in State, with all his *Regalia* about him when in the seventh Month of her Pregnancy, *Jupiter* preserved the Child, as it were out of the Fire, and inclosed it in his Thigh, there to go the rest of its Time. To explain this naturally, I should be tempted to believe, that this same pretended Thigh, was no other than an artificial Matrix, disguised to us, under this Name. But supposing between the Muscles of the *Femur* a Cavity capacious of lodging a Child of seven Months old in a State of Increment, the Nutrition must have been conveyed to it by the Ramifications of the *Vena cava inferior*, or of the crural Artery.

I cannot however clearly warrant this Fact; and I own it seems to me a little difficult to comprehend.

comprehend. But this is not a Reason absolutely to reject it. For I know nothing more dangerous, or more contrary to the Progress of sound Philosophy, than to reduce the Measure of physical Possibility, to that of our Comprehension.

The Birth of *Erichthonius* is far from being so incomprehensible. *Vulcan* had obtained of *Jupiter*, *Minerva* for his Wife, without being pre-assured of the Goddess's Consent. Thinking himself then sufficiently authorised, he proceeded to *Minerva's* Apartment, where, without any Ceremony, he was for proceeding to Essentials, and bent for Brisking the Consummation. *Minerva*, who besides the Character of violent Chastity she had to support, was perhaps more fortified against him, by his ugly, lame, smoke-dried Figure, made a stout Defence. This Resistance only the more inflamed the fiery *Vulcan*. This droll Struggle, in short, had such an Effect, that the fierce Desires of the limping *Enamorado*, exhaled themselves in the Heat of his Attempts. The Sacrifice was consummated, not indeed in the Temple of Virginity, but at the Gates of it. The prolific Libation fell to the Ground, nor fell in waste. Earth drank the Blood of the Gods, and quickening with the divine Seed, produced

produced a Male-Fœtus, which that it might preserve some Sign of its terrestrial Origin, had the Shape of a Serpent from the Belly downwards, and was called *Erichthonius*. *Ovid* in the second Book of *Metamorphoses*, relates, that *Minerva* with all her sublime Prudery, made it a Point of Conscience, in Honour of the good Intention, to place the Issue of it to her own Account, and taking Care of the divine Embrio, deposited it in a wicker Basket, which she gave in Charge to three young *Athenian* Girls, the Daughters of *Cecrops*. This Basket bears no doubt some Resemblance to my Earth-Baskets, though I can safely say, I did not pirate the Hint from it. But if there are who choose to attribute the Honour of this Invention to *Minerva*, they are welcome.

I go on now to the History of *Orion*, which I shall faithfully recount after an excellent Legendary of Antiquity, the same *Ovid* above-cited, a most exact Historian, and especially a circumstantial one.

“ As *Jupiter*, *Neptune* and *Mercury*
 “ were one Evening upon the Stroll, an old
 “ Man called *Hyriæus*, who lived by his
 “ Cultivation of a small Spot of Ground,
 “ sitting at the Door of his Hovel, saw
 “ them pass, and stopping them, said, you
 “ must

“ must have a good Way to go; the Day
 “ is near out of the Sky, and will certainly
 “ fail you: You had better step in, and rest
 “ your selves in my Cottage. *Addidit & vul-*
 “ *tum verbis*, observes the Historian, his
 “ Looks seconded his Words: He redoubles
 “ his Instances, and the Gods without break-
 “ ing their *incognito*, accept his Invitation.
 “ They took Shelter then under the old
 “ Man’s smoaky Roof. A Stick of Wood
 “ more than three Quarters consumed scarce
 “ maintained some Sparks of Fire. The
 “ good Man, with one Knee on the Ground
 “ revives it with his Breath, and adds a small
 “ Faggot. The Table is instantly prepared,
 “ soon two Plates, the one Beans, the other of
 “ Greens, smoaking hot, compose the whole
 “ Entertainment. As a Whet too, the old
 “ Man fills out to them with a Hand shak-
 “ ing with Age, some coarse red Wine of
 “ the same Year’s Vintage. *Neptune* drank
 “ first, † and as soon as he had tipped off
 “ his Cup, Fill, says he, and give it to *Ju-*
 “ *piter*. At this Name, the poor old Man
 “ trembled

† One can never enough Praise the Propriety of the An-
 cients in all their Writings: Here is a remarkable Circum-
 stance. The God of the Sea drinks first; *Ovid* in this fol-
 lows Nature. The salt Element occasions to those in that
 Branch of Life, a continual Thirst, which makes Drinking
 almost a Necessity, of which the Habit does not always leave
 them when they get on Shore.

“ trembled indeed! till re-encouraged by the
 “ serene Countenance of the Gods, he runs
 “ to his Stable, kills his only Ox, that
 “ served to work in his Plow, and dresses it
 “ for them. From his Cellar he produces
 “ some Wine long kept, and reserved for
 “ festival Days. He placed the Gods on
 “ Couches matted with Rush, and covered
 “ with Linen. They did not disdain this
 “ homely Cheer, and relished the Wine,
 “ though drawn from earthen Jugs, and
 “ poured into wooden Cups. *Jupiter* satis-
 “ fied with this Entertainment, said to his
 “ Host, ask whatever you please of us, and
 “ you shall have it granted. Alas! says the
 “ old Man, I had a Wife whom I loved in
 “ my youthful Years, and hard by is her
 “ Tomb. I swore to her, and called on
 “ your Divinities for Witnesses, that I would
 “ never marry again; nor have I violated
 “ my Oath. But though I am far from
 “ desirous of being a *Husband* again, would
 “ willingly be a Father. — At this, the
 “ Gods, with one Accord, in order to gra-
 “ tify the old Man’s Request, took the Ox-
 “ hide. [Here let me go no further, *Pudor*
 “ *est interiora loqui.*] This Skin being duly
 “ moistened, they buried it under Ground,
 “ and at the End of ten Months, out sprang
 “ a Child.

“ a Child. This was the Birth of the di-
 “ vine *Orion*.”

Now I do not doubt, but that this Ox-
 hide will be considered as the Model of my
 artificial *Secundinè*s ; and I am far from op-
 posing such an Opinion : At least these two
 Events, from the Citations of which, I
 own I derived a beneficial Confidence and
 Instruction, depose in Favour of the Propo-
 sal itself.

But without resorting to the Authority of
 Facts, which too remote an Antiquity, a
 fabulous Air of Tradition, or the Discredit
 the Authors may be in themselves, may ren-
 der too problematical ; or even to *Paracel-
 sus's* Man, made by Digestion in a chymi-
 cal Bottle, not an Hay-market one, is not
 the fine chopping Boy, the *Terræ-filius* I
 have to show as the Fruit of my Procefs of
 Plantation, and Culture, worth all other
 facts I could accumulate in Favour of my
 Experiment ? *Diogenes* indeed, before me,
 bragged of his planting of Men, but I have
 brought to Perfection the Secret of Trans-
 planting them, like Wildings, and of mul-
 tiplying and meliorating the human Species,
 by an Association of the Principles of Botany
 with the Powers of Pyrotechny : In the
 Deduction

Deduction of which, I also presume; that I have incidentally started Hints too valuable to be slighted, for the Establishment of a new, and nobler System of Georgics, than has hitherto obtained.

Bath the 18th November 1751.

F I N I S.

